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**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 6 February 2020

**Subject:** **Leeds City Region Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the updated West Yorkshire Combined Authority Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidance which now covers a Leeds City Region geography, and requests approval of the final document.

## 2. Information

### *Background*

- 2.1 As a response to the December 2015 floods, the West Yorkshire Leaders requested that a Leeds City Region Flood Review be undertaken. The review was prepared with contributions from the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, all 10 City Region council partners, North Yorkshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Canal and River Trust and the West Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership.
- 2.2 The Review (December 2016) reported on:
1. The **economic impact** of the flooding on Leeds City Region;

2. The lessons learnt and best practice in relation to **emergency response and civil contingency** arrangements;
  3. How **recovery** from such a civil emergency can be improved in the future; and
  4. The potential steps that need to be undertaken to improve our **resilience and preparedness** over the longer term.
- 2.3 The Flood Review makes 19 recommendations to help reduce the impact and likelihood of flooding and help us respond effectively across the City Region. The recommendations are arranged in the following broad thematic groups:
- a) Economic impact of flooding
  - b) Emergency response and recovery
  - c) Planning, risk reduction and mitigation for future events
- 2.4 All the actions in the flood review are ambitious and challenging. They require all parties involved to make commitments at all levels, changing how we do things in partnership.
- 2.5 The Recommendation 12 of the Flood Review requires:
- Consistent planning policies and approaches across the City Region developed by the Combined Authority and local authorities to mitigate flooding and improve resilience, including preparing City Region supplementary planning guidance to provide a stronger steer for the adoption of SuDS.*
- 2.6 This recommendation was developed to provide greater alignment flood risk management and delivery of SuDS across council partner areas and water catchment areas. The existing West Yorkshire Combined Authority SuDS Guidance pre-dated the Flood Review (2016).
- 2.7 The potential to update this document to form a City Region scale Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to be adopted by Leeds City Region Authorities has been explored with Heads of Planning and Flood Risk Managers. However, it has been recognised that the context when this recommendation was determined has changed and a joint SPD is not the preferred approach as all authorities have differing requirements relating to SuDS.
- 2.8 Consequently partners agreed to change the Flood Review recommendation to reflect delivery of updated SuDS guidance (on a City Region scale) rather than a City Region SPD.

### *Engagement*

- 2.9 In accordance with the above recommendation a final draft Leeds City Region SuDS Guidance document has been prepared and is attached for approval (see Appendix 1). An earlier draft of the SuDS Guidance was taken to the North Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership on 28 May 2019 and the West

Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership on 30 May 2019<sup>1</sup>. The Guidance has also been circulated to key stakeholders (Yorkshire Water, United Utilities and Environment Agency) for further comment.

- 2.10 As a result of the above engagement a final draft of the SuDS Guidance has been developed which has been endorsed by the City Region Heads of Planning and Senior Flood Officers/Chief Highways Officers on 30 August 2019. The SuDS Guidance was circulated to City Region Place Panel Members autumn 2019, who expressed support.
- 2.11 The published Guidance will be taken to Yorkshire and Humber Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in Spring 2020 for information.

#### *Use and Publication of the Document*

- 2.12 The purpose of the Guidance is to raise the profile of SuDS and promote their use in new developments. This is achieved by signposting developers to relevant local SuDS Guidance and policy, including the level of information required for planning applications, and setting out its role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. The Guidance sets out the aspirations of the City Region with regard to SuDS with a focus towards a developer/inward investment audience. The Guidance draws from standards and policy outlined at the local level in the City Region, it does not seek to set new SuDS standards.
- 2.13 The SuDS Guidance will be published on the Combined Authority and council partner websites with a view to embedding consideration of SuDS into the early stages of the development process with the overall aim of enhancing the standard of development and integration of SuDS in a range of schemes. It will be at the discretion of Partner Councils to determine the local approach to promoting the use of the document e.g. as part of the local planning application validation checklist.
- 2.14 The Combined Authority will also use the SuDS guidance when appraising schemes for investment as they progress through the Assurance Process. The guidance will be specifically useful when assessing alignment with Priority 3 of the City Region's Strategic Economic Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 2.15 The publication of the City Region SuDS Guidance will complete delivery of recommendation 12 of the Leeds City Region Flood Review, as outlined in para 2.5 above.

### **3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 The SuDS Guidance will contribute to delivering priorities in the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) linked to clean growth:

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<sup>1</sup> Flood Risk Partnerships are attended by the following: Officers and elected members of each local authority of the respective sub-region; Environment Agency Officers; Yorkshire Regional Flood Coastal Committee Members and Chair; and, the Internal Drainage Board.

- *Strategic Priority 3: Clean Energy and Environmental Resilience* including mitigating flood risk and improving the resilience of the City Region economy.
- *Strategic Priority 4: Infrastructure for Growth* includes integrated flood risk reduction as a key action area, such as the development of an integrated whole catchment flood management and adaptation programme.

3.2 The SuDS Guidance would also contribute to the objectives of the Leeds City Region Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan which primarily focuses on the mitigation of, and adaptation to, future flood events. The strategy includes as a priority the development of natural flood management programmes and drainage solutions encompassing the embedding of SuDS into new developments.

#### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report, however the health and wellbeing benefits of SuDS will contribute to supporting inclusive growth aspirations by delivering benefits in terms of enhanced quality of life for all, including vulnerable communities who may be less able to recover from the impact of flood events. The SuDS Guidance provides the basis for enhancing delivery of these assets.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

#### **7. Staffing Implications**

7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

#### **8. External Consultees**

8.1 The SuDS Guidance has been developed with extensive Partner Council engagement. Key external consultees such as Yorkshire Water, United Utilities and Environment Agency have also been engaged when developing the Guidance.

#### **9. Recommendations**

9.1 That the Combined Authority approve the final draft of the Leeds City Region SuDS Guidance.

#### **10. Background Documents**

10.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Final Draft Leeds City Region Sustainable Drainage Systems  
Guidance